matter is added by the amendment. Insertions are indicated by underline and deletions are indicated by strikethrough.

Further please amend the specification as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

I. On Page 1, lines 6-10, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

B1

Polyacrylamide hydrogels are used herein as endoprosthetic devices for bulking the urethra, rectum or colon (or *canalis analis*), or ureter in order to increase resistance in these conduits for the treatment of urinary incontinence, anal incontinence, and vesicouretal reflux. The polyacrylamide hydrogels comprise 0.5 to 25% by weight polyacrylamide and either pyrogen-free water or saline solution.

II. On Page 1, lines 26-31, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

B2

Vesicouretal reflux is the result of decreased ureteral resistance wherein urine from the bladder refluxes back into the kidney. This can result in the transport of bacteria from the bladder back up through the ureter, clayceal dilation, the renal pyramids and the kidneys and may lead to infections and recurrent pyelonephritis as well as cause physiological injury to the renal parenchyma. This may lead to renal failure.

III. On Page 3, lines 21-25, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

B3

A first aspect of the invention relates to a bio-stable hydrogel for use in the treatment and prevention of incontinence and vesicouretal reflux, said hydrogel obtainable by combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide in amounts so as to give about 0.5 to 25% by weight polyacrylamide, based on the total weight of the hydrogel; radical initiation; and washing with pyrogen-free water or saline solution.

IV. On Page 4, lines 1-5, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

B4

An important object of the invention is to provide a prosthetic device for increasing the resistance of conduits selected from the group consisting of the urethra; the rectum or colon; and the ureter for the treatment of urinary incontinence, anal incontinence, and vesicouretal reflux,

B4 cont'd respectively; wherein said device is injectable and comprises the bio-stable hydrogel of the invention.

V. On Page 4, lines 11-22, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

A first aspect of the invention relates to the bio-stable hydrogel obtainable by combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide in amounts so as to give about 0.5 to 25% by weight polyacrylamide, based on the total weight of the hydrogel; radical initiation; and washing with pyrogen-free water or saline solution, for use in the treatment and prevention of incontinence and vesicouretal reflux. The bio-stable hydrogel typically has a molecular weight between 0.01 x 10^6 and 20 x 10^6. The polymer is resistant to biological degradation and is not permeable through biological membranes. The polyacrylamide hydrogel of the invention is fully biocompatible (according to ISO standard test ISO-10993). The polyacrylamide hydrogel does not have cytotoxic effect on human fibroblasts, is non-toxic, non-carcinogenic, non-allergenic, non-mutagenic, and resistant to enzymatic and microbiological degradation. Furthermore, the polymer is not water-soluble.

B5

VI. On page 5, lines 26-30, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

The device also has elastic properties due to, at least in part of the high water binding capacity of the hydrogel of water. This is of great relevance in terms, at least, of durability and ability to provide resistance through the conduit. In a preferred embodiment, the hydrogel of the invention has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa, such as about 2 to 175 Pa, typically about 5 to 150 Pa, such as 10 to 100 Pa.

B6

VII. On page 14, line 10, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

B7 g) pre-wash values - washing typically reduces value by 20-40%

VIII. On page 17, lines 1-5, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

B8 The medical procedure involves injection of polyacrylamide gel under the mucous membrane of the uretha of women suffering from incontinence. Injection is via the external surface of the urethra and toward the submucosal membrane. 3 mL are injected at three depots